

Den Bosch



Efforts to preserve an historic
medieval city succeed

Some historic details

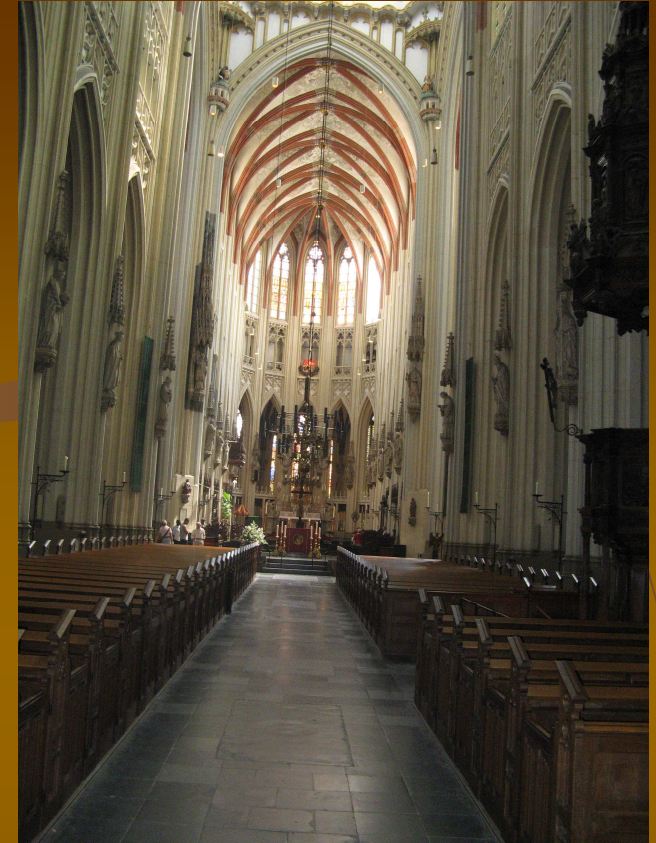
- **'s-Hertogenbosch** (Dutch, literally “The Duke’s Forest,”) is a municipality in the Netherlands, and also the capital of the province of North Brabant. It is located in the southern Netherlands, some 80 km south of Amsterdam
- Until 1520, the city flourished, becoming the second largest population centre in the territory of the present Netherlands, after Utrecht.
- One of the few official Nazi concentration camp complexes in western Europe located outside of Germany and Austria was named after 's-Hertogenbosch. In a tragic coincidence, the entire Jewish population of 's-Hertogenbosch was burnt alive on the same heath in the 13th century.
- The city of 's-Hertogenbosch has become a centre of industry, education, administration and culture.



1794 map shows Den Bosch and its ramparts.



Market Square is adjacent to the historic city hall. On market day visitors can choose between a wide variety of stalls. High Street stores offer numerous choices.



St. John's Cathedral dates from *circa* 1220 and is best known for its (Brabantian) gothic design and the many sculptures of craftsmen that are sitting on almost every arc and rim along the outside of the cathedral.



Medieval street patterns are much more interesting than modern ones. Den Bosch is chock full of expensive boutiques indicating that well-to-do people like living here.



Cafes, cafes, and more cafes...and the beer is very good.





Noordbrabants Museum: Bosch, Bruegel, Van Gough,
and others.



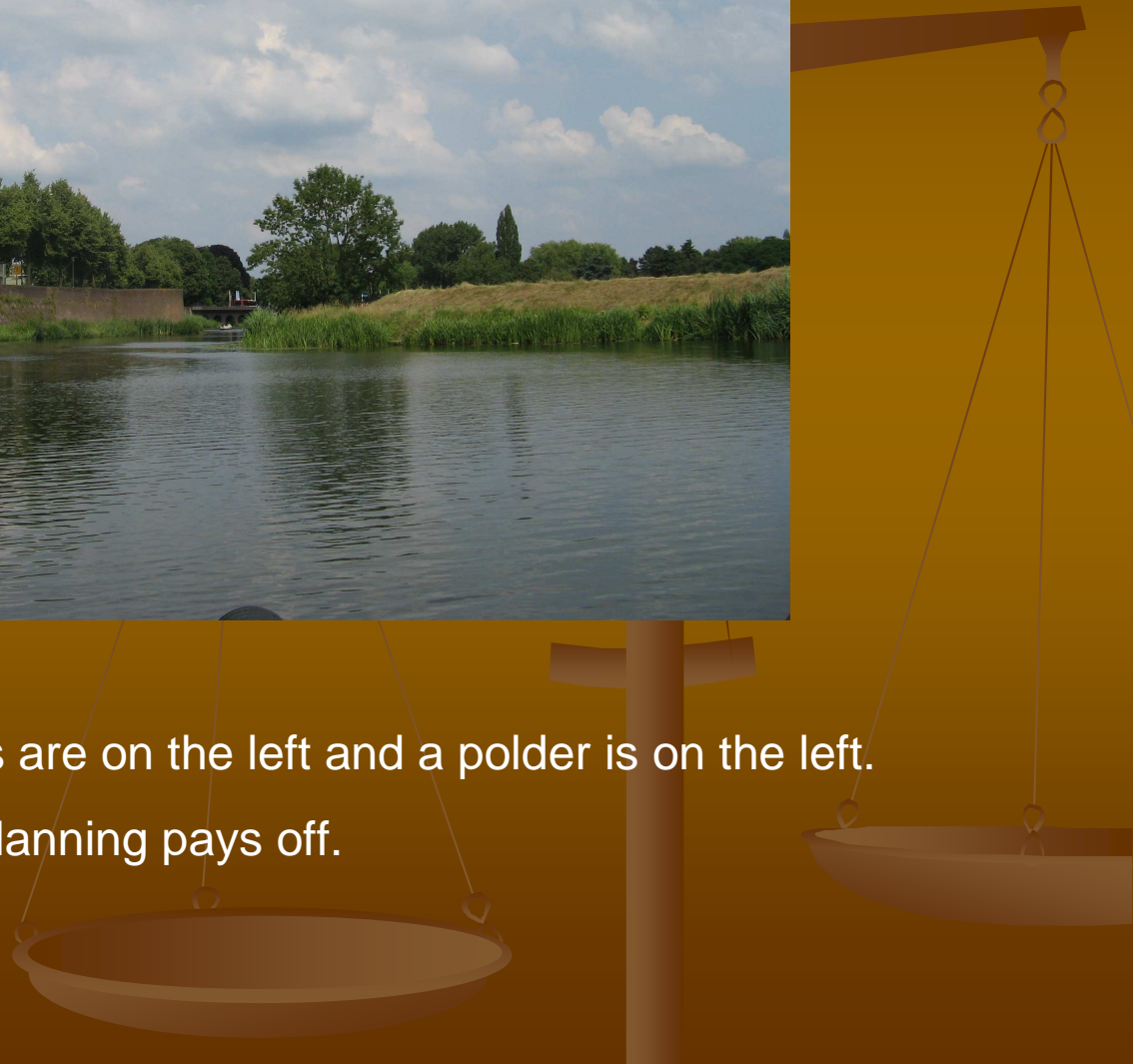
In 1964 the city council decided to close all waterways. This however could not be accomplished before the houses had a new sewage system. Fortunately, some people recognized the historical-cultural value of the Binnendieze and prevented the total closure of the waterways. It was decided to keep as much of the infrastructure as possible. The boat trips, organized by the Binnendieze foundation, are quite modestly priced



Buildings above the canal. At some points the canal is so narrow that one must crouch down and keep hands inside the boat.



The city ramparts are on the left and a polder is on the left.
Dutch land use planning pays off.





What a nice way to spend a lazy summer afternoon....



Conclusions

- Fortunately efforts to demolish the medieval city failed
- The preserved medieval core contains an attractive mix of shopping, culture, and recreation.
- Regional centers like Den Bosch should not be missed.

